



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
Joe W. Stecher

1620 Dodge Street Suite 1400 Omaha NE 68102-1506 (402) 661-3700

June 25, 2009

United States Attorney Joe Stecher and the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

On June 24, 2009, a six count Indictment was unsealed charging Shane Schutte and Maria del Sagrario Schutte with marriage fraud and fraud in the filing of immigration documents. The Indictment alleges that the defendants were married to evade immigration laws and filed false documents for the purpose of deceiving Immigration authorities. Both defendants appeared before the Honorable Richard G. Kopf and entered pleas of not guilty to the charges filed. Trial is set for August 31, 2009 in Lincoln.

Name of Defendant: Shane Allen Schutte

AKA:

Age: 35

City of residence: Cozad, Nebraska

Name of Defendant: Maria del Sagrario Schutte

AKA:

Age: 41

City of residence: Lexington, Nebraska

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Marriage Fraud, 8 USC 1325(c), up to 5 years imprisonment, up to a \$250,000 fine, or both fine and imprisonment, up to 3 years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment. Misuse and fraud in relation to immigration documents, 18 USC 1546(a), up to 5 years imprisonment, up to a \$250,000 fine, or both fine and imprisonment, up to 3 years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Cozad, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: Schutte - Cozad, Nebraska

Del Sagrario Schutte - Lexington Nebraska

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:

Others Charged in Same Scheme:

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: Count I- December 22, 2005
Count II - March 6, 2006
Count III - March 6, 2006
Count IV - March 19, 2008
Count V - August 28, 2006
Count VI - August 27, 2007

Federal Arrest Date: June 23, 2009

Date Complaint Issued:

Indictment Returned Date: June 16, 2009

Initial Appearance Date: June 24, 2009

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Trial date 8-31-2009

Sentencing Date:

Next Court Hearing Type and Date:

Assigned Magistrate Judge: David L. Piester

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Shane Schutte - Released on conditions
Maria del Sagrario Schutte - Held without Bond

In Continuous Custody Since:

Assigned District Court Judge: Richard G. Kopf

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: SAR